

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 985

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, KS, KN, JA

SUBJECT: VISA FOR NORTH KOREAN (MEMBO RYANG)

REF: STATE 20914 (NOTAL)

1. GIVEN ROK EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE APPROACHES TO NORTH KOREA BY THIRD COUNTRIES UNTIL COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAVE MADE SOME RECIPROCAL GESTURE TOWARD ROK, ROKG WOULD BE SENSITIVE TO ANY NORTH KOREAN ATTENDANCE AT A CONFERENCE IN THE U.S. THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE NOW, GIVEN CURRENT ROK EFFORTS TO DIVERT AUSTRALIANS FROM MOVING TOWARD NORTH KOREA. IN CASE OF DR. RYANG, ROKG OBJECTIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE MANAGEABLE, AS INFORMATION PROVIDED BY OSAKA KOBE INDICATES THAT NORTH KOREA COULD REAP LITTLE POLITICAL BENEFIT FROM HIS TRIP TO HAWAII IN MAY TO ATTEND JAPAN-AMERICA CHEMISTRY SEMINAR. HOWEVER, BELIEVE WE SHOULD FULLY EXPLAIN CIRCUMSTANCE HIS CASE TO MOFA BEFOREHAND IN EVENT DECISION IS MADE TO ISSUE VISA.

2. IF INVITATIONS EXTENDED TO NORTH KOREAN SCHOLARS WITH STRONGER TIES TO NORTH KOREA THAN RYANG HAS, CONFIDENTIAL

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ROKG CONCERN OVER IMPACT WOULD BE JUSTIFIED.

EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD APPROACH QUESTION OF
VISAS IN SUCH CASES CAUTIOUSLY AND ONLY AFTER
FULLEST CONSULTATION WITH ROKG.

3. IN THAT CONTEXT EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED
IN FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING PLANS OF HAWAII
CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES TO INVITE NORTH KOREAN
SCHOLARS TO ITS CONFERENCE IN MID-1974.
HABIB

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